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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3295
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000745

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ARPI, INL/HSTC, AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/2016
TAGS: PHUM KCRM ELAB KU TIP
SUBJECT: LABOR MINISTER TO REVITALIZE EXPAT LABOR COMMITTEE
AND INCLUDE NGOS IN POLICY PROCESS

REF: KUWAIT 724

¶1. (U) Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Shaykh Ali
Al-Jarrah publicly announced that Prime Minister Shaykh
Nasser Mohammad has personally asked him to fight
residence-permit trading and other violations of expatriate
worker rights. The statement was covered in the March 1st
edition of the local Arabic daily Al-Qabas. Al-Jarrah said
the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL) would
activate its relevant units and use all means at its disposal
to fight sham companies that exist only to sell residence
permits. Shaykh Ali further mentioned that he would seek to
revitalize the role of Permanent Committee to Treat Foreign
Labor Affairs. Among the actions he will take will be to ask
the Minister of Municipal Affairs to appoint a representative
to the committee, which currently has representation from
MOSAL, the Ministry of Interior, and the Commerce and
Industry Ministry.

¶2. (C) The Minister also said MOSAL would bring in NGOs as
partners in treating a number of issues, including expatriate
worker issues. Note: The Chairman of the Social Work
Society of Kuwait (SWS) (reftel), Faisal Al-Masoud, called
this a "revolution" in the way MOSAL works. He further
claimed that the main NGO that Shaykh Ali had in mind was
SWS, and that this was a signal that MOSAL's goals are in
line with SWS. SWS favors changes to the labor law that
would provide greater protection for expatriate laborers. End
Note.

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LEBARON